

February 16, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transportation Enhancement Projects Awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Nebraska Department of Roads announced today that funding has been awarded for community and agency projects, statewide, through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program.

According to Roads Director-State Engineer Monty Fredrickson, "Over the years, many positive things have been accomplished and continue to benefit Nebraska as a result of the Transportation Enhancement Program. These projects are making a significant contribution to the quality of life in Nebraska communities – from the smallest village to the largest city."

The Transportation Enhancement Program, part of the federal highway bill, provides funding to local, state, and regional governmental entities to construct and restore transportation infrastructure that are not eligible to be funded through other programs. Examples of transportation infrastructure projects that are eligible under this program include non-motorized facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, development of scenic byways, restoration of historic transportation facilities, and other projects directly related to the historic, current, or future transportation infrastructure.

Twelve projects were recommended by the Nebraska Transportation Enhancement Selection Committee. Following is a list briefly describing the projects approved to receive funding:

#MORE#

NSHS-WEBSITE ENHANCEMENT AND HISTORICAL EXHIBITS

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) was recommended for funding for three projects which will be administered by the NSHS. The first component of this funding is for the development and administration of an enhanced historical marker website. The second component is for research, design, fabrication, and installation of an exhibition in the Wheelwright Shop at the Fort Robinson Museum in Fort Robinson State Park, located in Crawford, Nebraska. The third component is for research, design, fabrication, and installation of a new history exhibit in the main Neligh Mill building, located in Neligh, Nebraska. The total project cost is currently estimated to be \$115,575 and the NSHS has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

LINCOLN SHERIDAN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The City of Lincoln was recommended for funding for the design and replacement of the Sheridan Boulevard Bridges, which are located just west of the intersection of South 33rd Street along Sheridan Boulevard. The bridges are twin, three span bridges that overpass the current Rock Island Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail. These bridges are contributing features to the Boulevards Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Despite regular monitoring and maintenance, the bridges are beginning to deteriorate rapidly. The steel girders are corroding, and the concrete deck and substructure is cracking and spalling to the point where protective screens have been installed to protect the trail users below from falling material. The City will replace the bridges, including sidewalks and safety-tested concrete railings of traditional appearance to maintain the historic boulevard appearance, and open undercrossing for the trail. The total project cost is estimated to be \$2,003,403 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

SCOTTSBLUFF MONUMENT PATHWAY NORTH

The City of Scottsbluff was recommended for funding for design and construction of a 16,650 foot long, 10' wide concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that would connect residential, business, and recreational locations. The project begins in Riverside Park, connecting to the previously TE funded Monument Valley Pathway Trail. From there it travels north and east passing the athletic fields, park, swimming pool, and a commercial shopping area. The trail terminates on West 33rd Street at Northwood Park. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,609,858 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

#MORE#

BEATRICE WATER PARK TO HANNIBAL PARK TRAIL

The City of Beatrice was recommended for funding for design and construction of a 2.25 mile long, 10' foot wide, concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail. This project is the next phase of the hike/bike path that runs through Beatrice and connects with the Homestead Trail between Beatrice and Lincoln. This project provides access between the Beatrice Water Park, the Beatrice Mary Family YMCA, the Beatrice Senior High School, and Hannibal Park. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,228,093 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

TECUMSEH SQUARE BRICK STREET RESTORATION & HISTORIC LIGHTING PROJECT

The City of Tecumseh was recommended for funding for historic replica lighting and brick street improvements in the historic Tecumseh Architectural District. Funding will be used for preliminary engineering and installation of 45 new historic replica lights and salvage/replacement of brick pavers on four streets (12 blocks) surrounding the historic Johnson County Courthouse. Concrete parking lanes would be installed adjacent curbs with the salvage and replacement of brick pavers occurring in the center drive lanes and center parking lane. This project is part of a larger Courthouse Square revitalization that will complete needed improvements to underground infrastructure. Funding for the infrastructure improvements is being provided through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, City of Tecumseh LB840 investment, and private local business assessments. The total project cost is estimated to be \$5,135,251 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

LINCOLN STONEBRIDGE TRAIL

The City of Lincoln was recommended for funding for design and construction of a 1.25 mile long, 10' wide, concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail which will provide a connection between the North 14th Street Trail and the Alvo Road Trail. The Stonebridge Trail will begin at North 14th Street and Humphrey Avenue where it proceeds through the Stonebridge neighborhood. The trail ends at the north entrance of Kooser Elementary west of North 14th Street, connecting to the Alvo Road Trail. The total project cost is estimated to be \$702,809 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

#MORE#

OMAHA 24TH STREET ROAD DIET

The City of Omaha was recommended for funding for the design and construction of a road diet along 24th Street, which is a minor arterial that connects the areas of South Omaha to the central core of Downtown Omaha. The project area is bounded by L Street to the south and Leavenworth Street to the north. The corridor will take a traditional four-lane roadway and create a three-lane section with dedicated bicycle lanes, allowing for enhanced visibility for both motorists and cyclists. The project will also improve the streetscape of 24th Street between L Street and Leavenworth Street. Locations will be identified to increase pedestrian access and mobility by including nodes at key intersections to reduce the distance pedestrians will have to cross the street and diminish the length of time for pedestrian exposures. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,470,500 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

OMAHA METRO BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Metropolitan Planning Agency (MAPA), in partnership with Activate Omaha, was recommended for funding to develop, promote and maintain a bicycle safety program aimed at educating bicyclists and motorists on safe practices for operating their vehicles in “mixed traffic environments”. Activate Omaha will be responsible for managing and developing a project management plan which includes the design and implementation of safety education curriculum including at least 24 classes for adults and children as well as two LCI Train the Trainers courses. Activate Omaha will also oversee the procurement and distribution of cycling safety materials for children participating in these courses. MAPA will be responsible for financial management and reporting, collecting and submitting required program reports, program advisory, NEPA documentation on sites as necessary and technical support services in mapping, production and transportation data analysis. The total project cost is estimated to be \$207,500 and MAPA and its regional partners have committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

HASTINGS PIONEER SPIRIT TRAIL – PHASE 4

The City of Hastings was recommended for funding for the construction of 2,800 foot long, 10' wide bicycle/pedestrian trail. This project will be combined with the previously funded NDOR Federal-Aid project STPAA-5516(7) which extends from Elm to 6th Avenue. This Phase 4 project begins at 12th Street and Elm Avenue tying into an existing trail and extending easterly to 6th Avenue. This project will connect the existing college sports complex, college dorms and alumni center and the residents of 7th Avenue Subdivision with the existing Pioneer Spirit Trail and will provide a safe pedestrian walkway in this corridor of the city. The total project cost is estimated to be \$968,832 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

#MORE#

GRAND ISLAND CAPITAL AVENUE TRAIL

This City of Grand Island was recommended for funding for construction for a 1 mile, 10' wide bicycle/pedestrian trail along Capital Avenue between Broadwell Avenue and Webb Road; preliminary engineering and right-of-way will be included in the Capital Avenue Road project, which is funded with federal-funds under the Nebraska Department of Roads Surface Transportation Program (URB-5436(5)). The Capital Avenue Trail will start at the intersection of Capital Avenue and Broadwell Avenue and will proceed west traveling in front of the Nebraska Veteran's Home and the Hall County Veteran's Memorial Park. The trail will then cross Capital Avenue, ending at Webb Road. The total project cost is estimated to be \$526,255 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

ALLIANCE MEADOWOOD TRAIL

The City of Alliance was recommended for funding for construction of a 2,600 foot long, 8' wide concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail. The project will be combined with a "share the road" designated bicycle lanes project (URB-6254(7)) which connects on the west to the previously TE funded Snake Creek Trail and continues east to 10th Street and Flack Avenue. Starting at 10th & Flack Avenue, the Meadowood Trail travels east, passing by the YMCA, and ending at the entrance of the Meadowood neighborhood located at 10th and Meadowlark Avenue. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,000,000 and the City has committed to provide a 20 percent local match.

COWBOY TRAIL RENOVATION

The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission was recommended for funding for the repair of approximately 12.5 miles of resurfacing of the Cowboy Trail between Neligh and O'Neill, Nebraska. In June 2010, a 500-year flood hit Nebraska and damaged 72 miles of the Cowboy Trail. The flood scoured several large areas of trail, washed away numerous sections of surface and sub-grade and damaged or destroyed several bridges. This project will resurface 12.5 miles of 8' wide limestone trail with 2' shoulders on either side, and replace a 60' trail bridge that is located in Ewing, Nebraska. The total project cost is estimated to be \$2,750,000 and the NG&P has committed to provide a 73 percent local match.

#NDOR#

Contact:

Mike Kleffner, (402) 479-4881

NR5-GP